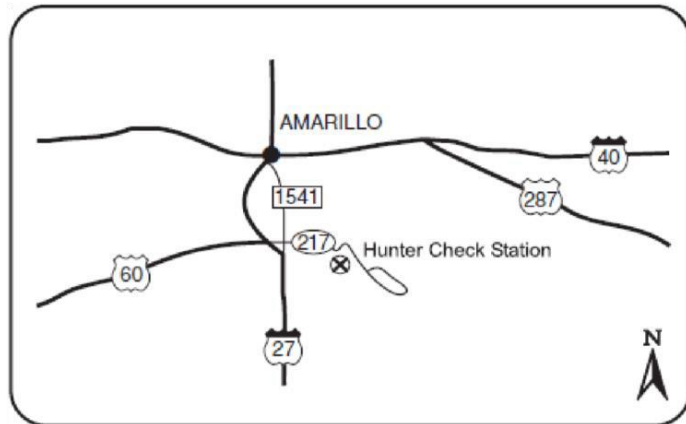




PALO DURO CANYON STATE PARK

OVERVIEW

Palo Duro Canyon State Park consists of more than 29,000 acres in Armstrong and Randall Counties, south of Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle. Palo Duro Canyon is located on the southern high plains, an area called El Llano Estacado, or "staked plains." The canyon is approximately 120 miles long, 20 miles wide and 800 feet deep. The rim of the canyon is considered part of the short-grass prairie, while the elevated moisture of the canyon floor supports a greater diversity of plants, including some medium- and tall-grass species along with shrubs and trees.



The land was deeded by private owners in 1933. From 1933 until 1937, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) sent six companies of young men and military veterans to Palo Duro Canyon to develop road access to the canyon floor as well as the visitor center, cabins, shelters, and the park headquarters. The hard work of these dedicated individuals was important in the establishment of Palo Duro Canyon State Park which officially opened on July 4, 1934.

Man has inhabited Palo Duro Canyon for approximately 12,000 years. The Clovis and Folsom people first resided in the canyon and hunted large herds of mammoth and giant bison. Later on, other cultures such as the Apache, Comanche, and Kiowa utilized the canyon's abundant resources.

HUNTING INFORMATION

An objective of the Department is to control exotic and feral animals within managed areas. Towards this end, feral hogs and aoudad, or Barbary sheep, are the targeted game species of the Exotic Only (EXO) hunt. During all hunts, no limit is imposed on exotic and feral animals, but hunters are urged to take only what they can use to prevent any wasted resources. All park rules and regulations must be adhered to unless superseded by hunting regulations.

Permitted hunters should report to the Park Headquarters, front gate, by **9:00** am on the first day of their assigned hunt period. Permitted hunters will then be escorted to the Hunt Area by park staff for orientation. Standby hunters should report to the front gate of the park by **8:00** a.m. the first day of the desired hunt period to complete the application process. **Hunters must contact the area as soon as possible if they are unable to attend their accepted hunt or not able to arrive on the first day for orientation.** Standby hunters will be drawn at **8:15 AM** as vacancies permit. Following brief orientation, Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel will lead the hunters to their pre-selected compartment areas in the southern region of the Park property. Hunting will end at sunset on the final day of the assigned hunt.

NOTE: The aoudad hunt is **extremely physically demanding**. There are three compartments that require a two hour hike over rugged terrain just to get to the compartment. There are no designate trails to these areas. The hike in descends 700 feet of elevation and requires a difficult uphill hike back out after a long day of hunting. This country is remote and very difficult to traverse and therefore requires significant physical stamina.

Hunters must wear a minimum of **400** square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material, with at least 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back and orange headwear.

Use of dogs is prohibited.

Non-permitted hunters, visitors, and family members will not be allowed in the hunting zone of the Park during hunts except that a non-hunting adult assisting a permitted handicapped hunter will be allowed.

Hunters will be responsible for the reasonable care of their game after harvest. No facilities for cold storage are available on the Park.

Hunters are reminded that they must have a valid Texas Hunting License, and any required stamp as required by statute. Hunters **17** years of age and older must have in their possession a valid I.D. Hunter Safety Education is required of Texas hunters born on or after **September 2, 1971** (see the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual for more information). Each hunter should also bring a flashlight, food, drinking water, and appropriate clothing for extreme weather changes.

Public display or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Hunters may not consume or be under the influence of alcohol while hunting. Disturbance or removal of plants, rocks, artifacts, or other objects is prohibited.

Camping and other overnight stay arrangements may be available in the Park for permitted hunters. For more information, contact the Park Superintendent or Hunt Manager at **(806) 488-2227**.